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Project | Date November 1952 | Author Milton O. Koppang

SUBJECT—

TITLE

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONDITIONS SOUTH FORK OF BARNABY CREEK COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST, WASHINGTON

1952

Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONDITIONS 1/
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During the course of an aerial reconnaissance survey conducted by this laboratory, an infestation of mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus monticolae Hopk., in lodgepole pine, in the south fork of Barnaby Creek, Colville National Forest, was observed. The area of infestation covers parts of Sections 22, 26, 27 and 28 in T. 35N., R. 35E. Following the aerial observation of the area of infestation, a ground survey was conducted to determine the extent of the infestation. The following data were obtained:

Acres in area.	160
Infested trees per acre.	3.7
Total infested trees	592

The stand in this area consisted of lodgepole pine, spruce, cedar and larch. The present understory is predominately of spruce and cedar. The enclosed map shows a stringer of lodgepole pine type, approximately 20 chains in width and 60 chains in length, lying in a east-west direction on the north side of the creek. Another area of type lies about 40 chains south of the creek and is approximately 20 chains in width and 30 chains in length. The infested areas are fairly well isolated. The volume of lodgepole in this area has been greatly depleted by a continued infestation which appears to have reached the highest point of tree mortality in the year of 1951.

The present infestation seemed to be of a secondary nature. A high population of Ips is also present in these stands. An examination of infested trees indicated that brood was generally light with a low number of attack per square foot of bark surface. The average diameter of noninfested trees, in the infested areas, is 11 inches. Lodgepole, with diameters above the 6-inch class, averaged 15 stems per acre. Of the total number of lodgepole above the 6-inch class, 26 per cent were attacked in 1951, and 20 per cent were attacked in 1952. The heights of attack for 1952 averaged approximately 20 feet.

From the data obtained by the survey and observations made of the trees in the area, it appears that the lodgepole stand has been greatly depleted by a continued infestation of mountain pine beetle, which may have reached its peak in 1951 and now is possibly dying out.

1/ Prepared by Milton O. Koppang

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONDITIONS

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